

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending, and have all been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests examination and an action on the merits.

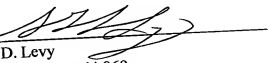
The specification has been amended to include an indication of the priority claim.

Claims 1-19 have been amended to be in proper "method" claim format. Claims 3-9, 13 and 17-19 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies therein. Claims 2 and 9 have been amended to employ proper Markush language in describing the groups of inventive elements recited therein.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

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